

STATE OF TENNESSEE

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 404

SENATE BILL NO. 441

By Overbey, Herron, Tracy, Marrero, Burks

Substituted for: House Bill No. 1669

By Tindell, Fincher, Williams, Favors, Hardaway, Hackworth, Ty Cobb, Windle, Richardson, Cooper, Montgomery, Carr, Litz, Harry Brooks, Gilmore, Lollar, Hensley, Dennis, Fraley, Weaver, Winningham, Eldridge, Coley, Faulkner, Ferguson, Camper, Todd, Phillip Johnson, Matheny, Armstrong, Moore, Harrison, Haynes, Curtis Johnson, McCormick, McDaniel, McDonald

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 33, Chapter 6, relative to mental health crisis services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-6-105, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and adding the following as a new subsection:

(b) To the extent that funds are made available and in the interest of public safety, the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities shall coordinate with other departments and agencies of state government, community mental health centers, and other health care providers to promote access to a continuum of appropriate services for persons in psychiatric emergencies including, but not limited to, the following components:

(1) A toll-free telephone number for twenty-four (24) hour access, seven (7) days a week. The telephone line shall be linked to an appropriate psychiatric emergency service provider staffed by qualified personnel in order to provide crisis triage and intervention;

(2) Telephone and walk-in triage screening, telephone and mobile or walk-in face-to-face clinical assessment, intervention and follow-up; and

(3) Access to crisis respite and crisis stabilization beds.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 33-6-105, is amended by adding the following as a new subsection:

(c) It is the legislative intent that the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities maintain funding for the portion of the emergency psychiatric services continuum for persons in need of such services who are not eligible for TennCare Program and are otherwise uninsured. In the event that

appropriations to the department are not sufficient to fully support this portion of the emergency psychiatric services continuum, at least at the annualized levels provided as of January 1, 2009, then the department shall provide a report to the planning and policy council created by § 33-1-401 and the legislative Fiscal Review Committee created by § 3-7-101. The report shall identify all means the department intends to use to continue to make resources available.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: May 28, 2009



RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE



KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 11th day of June 2009



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR